

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Mr. John William Ward
President
Amherst College
Amherst, MA 01002

Dear President Ward:

This is in response to your letters of 17 May 1976 and 2 August 1976 to the Director of Central Intelligence requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act, information concerning "paid or unpaid contacts between the CIA and any faculty member, student or employee of Amherst College."

As you can appreciate, this Agency receives many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding confidential relationships between the CIA and various foreign and American individuals and institutions. It is our policy, however, to respond to such requests neither affirmatively nor negatively. This policy derives from the fact that the DCI has a responsibility, under paragraphs 102(d)(3) of the National Security Act of 1947, to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure. Thus, we have no choice but to deny your request in accordance with both the 1947 Act and paragraphs (b)(1) and (b)(3) of the Freedom of Information Act. I am sure you will understand that we cannot deny the existence of such relationships in response to one inquiry without being compelled to acknowledge them in some others. Accordingly, please understand that this response should not be taken to imply that Amherst College personnel have been engaged in confidential relationships with the Central Intelligence Agency.

I regret that under the circumstances we are unable to be more forthcoming in our response to your request. May I add, however, that as the Director pointed out in his letter to you of 5 June, any academician with whom the Agency has a relationship is free to acknowledge that fact to his or her college or university administration. Let me also repeat his assurance that we do understand and appreciate the vital role of our colleges and universities in the preservation of freedom.



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The determination explained above was made by Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Chief of Services Staff. As specified in the Freedom
of Information Act, I am advising you of your right to appeal
this decision by addressing your appeal to the CIA Information
Review Committee, via the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Gene F. Wilson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

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